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Soviet Officials Air Old Refrain Against U.S.

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Special to The Star

MOSCOW—Today being Soviet Armed Forces Day is the time when the military brass unleash their oratory, flex their muscles and rattle their rockets. Pride of mention is given to the missiles and the men who man them. Andrei Grechko, first deputy defense minister, marshal of the Soviet Union and commander of the Warsaw Pact forces last evening told a glittering anniversary meeting audience: "In recent years we have paid great attention to developing the strategic rocket troops and atom-powered submarines that are equipped with rockets. We have increased our stocks of nuclear warheads of all types and equipped all branches of the army and navy with perfected means for their employment. New compact solid fuel rockets capable of destroying targets at great distances have been produced."

Ignore Defense Theme

In much the same vein chief of the army and navy political administration Gen. Alexei Yepishev referred to the rocket troops as "the main branch of our armed services." All the articles and speeches that mark the occasion voice confidence in the Soviet armed forces capability to deal a crushing retaliatory blow to any attackers. The day's stress seems to be on offense as the most effective defense with no references this time to antimissile missiles.

If the weapons referred to are all of the very latest up-date models this description hardly fits the political thoughts especially the comments on the international situation.

Germans Assailed

Defense Minister Rodion Malinovsky set the pitch in his order of the day which lists "the murderous actions of American imperialism against the Vietnam people and the revanchist aspirations of the West German militarists" as the main threats to peace which necessitates top vigilance on the part of the Soviet people and armed forces.

Marshal Malinovsky charges the Bonn government with pursuing an out-and-out militarist course and declares its military expenditures exceed those of Hitler in his preparations for World War II. Yepishev echoes all these accusations and goes on to repeat the time-honored cliches about American imperialism plotting a war against the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

Allowing for variations—substitution of Vietnam for Cuba, the Congo or Korea, this seems part of the familiar script that has echoed and reechoed for almost two decades. In this year 1967 when East-West tensions in Europe at least have subsided it sounds rather stale and dated.

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